

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/791,906

Examiner

Hai C. Pham

Applicant(s)

TASAKA, KAZUTAKA

Art Unit

2861

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 10/01/07, which supplements Amendment filed 08/08/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-28 and 31-36.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: claims 1-17 and 31-32 are allowed at least for the reason that the prior art of record does not teach or reasonably suggest the image recording apparatus for recording an image by irradiating a printing plate with a light beam, comprising a holding drum for holding a printing plate, a light emission part for irradiating said printing plate with a light beam to perform writing, a rotation mechanism for scanning an irradiation position of said light beam on said printing plate in a main scan direction by rotating said holding drum relatively to said light emission part, a moving mechanism for scanning said irradiation position in a subscan direction by moving said light emission part relatively to said holding drum along a direction parallel to a rotation axis of said holding drum, a storage part for storing data of an original image, an operation part for generating data of a modified image obtained by substantially modifying width of said original image in said subscan direction in consideration of extension of a paper caused by dampening water in printing with said printing plate, said modified image indicating said original image distorted in said subscan direction without being distorted in said main scan direction, and a control part for controlling emission of said light beam according to said data of said modified image while shifting writing timing in said main scan direction by changing a cycle of a writing clock, as set forth in the claimed combination.

Claims 18-27 and 33 are allowed at least for the reason that the prior art of record does not teach or reasonably suggest the image recording method of recording an image onto a printing plate, comprising the steps of a) preparing data of an original

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image, b) generating data of a modified image obtained by substantially modifying width of said original image in a predetermined subscan direction in consideration of extension of a paper caused by dampening water in printing with a printing plate, said modified image indicating said original image distorted in said subscan direction without being distorted in a main scan direction orthogonal to said subscan direction, and c) performing image recording by irradiating said printing plate held by a holding drum with a light beam, wherein an irradiation position of said light beam on said printing plate is scanned in said main scan direction by rotating said holding drum relatively to a light emission part, said irradiation position is scanned in said subscan direction by moving said light emission part relatively to said holding drum along a direction parallel to a rotation axis of said holding drum, and said light beam is emitted from said light emission part on the basis of data of said modified image in synchronization with scanning in said main scan direction and said subscan direction while shifting writing timing for said light beam in said main scan direction by changing a cycle of a writing clock in said step c), as set forth in the claimed combination.

The reason for allowance of claim 28 has been stated in the Office action issued on 11/24/06.

Claims 34-35 are allowed at least for the reason that the prior art of record does not teach or reasonably suggest the image recording apparatus as recited in claim 1 above, and which further comprises said operation part modifying said width of said original image in said subscan direction by deleting or adding pixels where said operation part divides a pixel group constituted of pixels aligned in said subscan

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direction into a plurality of modification unit pixel groups as many as pixels to be deleted or added and determines a position of one pixel to be deleted or added from/to each of said plurality of modification unit pixel groups on the basis of a random number, and the number of pixels in each of said plurality of modification unit pixel groups is half to twice a value obtained by dividing the number of pixels in said pixel group by the number of said pixels to be deleted or added, as set forth in the claimed combination.

Claim 36 is allowed at least for the reason that the prior art of record does not teach or reasonably suggest the image recording method as recited in claim 18 and which further comprises said width of said original image in said subscan direction being modified by deleting or adding pixels in said step b) where a pixel group constituted of pixels aligned in said subscan direction is divided into a plurality of modification unit pixel groups as many as pixels to be deleted or added and a position of one pixel to be deleted or added from/to each of said plurality of modification unit pixel groups is determined on the basis of a random number, and the number of pixels in each of said plurality of modification unit pixel groups is half to twice a value obtained by dividing the number of pixels in said pixel group by the number of said pixels to be deleted or added, as set forth in the claimed combination.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai C. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-2260. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM - 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Luu can be reached on (571) 272-7663. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



HAI PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

October 9, 2007